

GenX – Administrator Visit to Charleston, S.C.

Issue: Isolated, Unverified Report of GenX in Charleston/Mt. Pleasant SC:

July 18, 2017 - Local SC press reports that an independent homeowner test at a local lab found GenX in Mt. Pleasant, SC (a community directly east of Charleston, SC). The Mt. Pleasant municipal water company tests for multiple perfluorinated chemicals (but not GenX) and indicates that none of their routine tests have detected PFCs in Mount Pleasant or Charleston's water systems. In an abundance of caution, both Charleston and Mt. Pleasant water systems were sampled for GenX on July 19. SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (S.C. HEC) has not seen the lab results from the homeowner's sample. EPA is not in a position to comment on independent labs/private parties results w/o sample procedures, QA/QC. SC DHEC does not know of a possible source. DuPont and other manufacturers have facilities near Charleston where fluoroether refrigerants are made but very unclear whether Gen-X is being generated. Mt. Pleasant is 167 miles from the Cape Fear river (which is known to have measurable concentrations of GenX).

Background on GenX in Cape Fear Watershed, N.C.

- Two chemicals that are intended to replace PFOA/PFOS have been found in the Cape Fear River, which is the source for the Wilmington, NC drinking water system (the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA)). These two chemicals are unregulated under the SDWA. They are regulated under TSCA.
- Chemours, at a GenX facility near Fayetteville, has begun the process of capturing GenX-tainted wastewater so that it is not released into the Cape Fear River in N.C. and had agreed to bear all costs for the water collection and analysis of 13 water samples described below. The samples are being sent to a private laboratory in Colorado, and the EPA ORD lab in RTP for independent verification.
- At the request of the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), ORD scientists are conducting an independent lab analysis of six rounds of wastewater, surface water, ground water, and treated drinking water samples being collected by NCDEQ at 13 locations in the Cape Fear River this summer: <https://deq.nc.gov/news/hot-topics/genx-investigation>.
- On July 13 the results of the first round of samples collected between June 19 and July 6 along the Cape Fear River were released by NCDEQ. The state also updated its health goal for drinking water to 140 ng/L . *(The analysis of this first batch of samples found that GenX was present in every sample. The range varied widely from 4 ng/L to 21,760 ng/L. Finished drinking water samples varied widely from 51 ng/L to 1,100 ng/L.)*
- The lab method being used by EPA in this analyses was developed by EPA/ORD scientists and has been used in EPA research and in analysis efforts. Press release by NCDEQ reported concentrations trending down.
- EPA is investigating Chemours' compliance with the requirements of a 2009 order issued under TSCA for the production of GenX (replacing PFOS) to control releases to the environment at the Fayetteville, N.C., facility and impacting Wilmington drinking water. EPA is also reviewing the additional toxicity data submitted by the company, as required under the consent order, and updating the risk assessment using more recent production data and the additional GenX toxicity data.
- On July 17, NC Governor Cooper sent a letter to EPA urging EPA to set limits, revisit the consent

order, require studies.

- There is no EPA health advisory level for GenX.
- EPA is committed to protecting public health and working collaboratively with states to ensure that together, we are prepared to respond to findings of GenX in our Nation's waters. EPA is working closely with and supporting North Carolina and their public water systems to address GenX in the Cape Fear River.